

Title	Corynebacterium diphtheriae
Specimen Requirements	<p>Specimen Collection: Throat swab and nasopharyngeal specimens are recommended for respiratory illness.</p> <p>Suspected carriers, nasopharyngeal specimen should be obtained. For cutaneous diphtheria, collect skin/wound, throat, and nasopharyngeal specimen.</p>
Sampling Materials	<p>Use polyester tipped swab, not calcium alginate.</p> <p>Choose one of the following for transport.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swab transport system. 2. Amies or Stuart transport medium 3. Loefflers/Pai slant 4. Screw-cap sterile tube
Procedural Notes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be sure to properly label the specimen tube with the patient's name and date of collection. 2. Check the expiration date on the tube to ensure product is acceptable and will continue to be acceptable once received at the ISDH laboratory. 3. Category B UN3373 Triple contained in accordance with federal shipping regulations for diagnostic specimens. 4. Complete a Reference Bacteriology Culture Identification request form for each specimen with the following information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Name, age, and sex of patient b. Specimen source/type and date of specimen collection c. Date of symptom onset d. Suspected disease agent e. Relevant comments which may include patient story and travel history. f. Submitting clinic information-clinic name, address, phone number, fax number, contact name and email address (if available). g. Submitter eligibility: Prior Approval by ISDH Epidemiology SID 317-233-7112
Shipping Instructions	<p>Triple contained in accordance with federal shipping regulations for diagnostic specimens.</p> <p>See procedural notes #3.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tighten the specimen collection container or culture tube cap. Best to wrap tape around cap to help seal from any leakage. 2. Label clearly on the outside of the container/tube with the patient name and collection date. 3. Wrap this primary container with absorbent material. Place the primary container and absorbent material in the inner mailing container and tighten the cap securely. 4. The completed request form may be then wrapped around the sealed inner container and together enclosed securely in an outer shipping container clearly labeled with senders name/address and recipients name/address. 5. Do not send culture isolates on petri plates if submitting by mail. <p>ISDH Reference Bacteriology Request form for mail submissions.</p> <p>Transport Temperature: 2-25°C</p>
Reporting and TAT	<p>Reporting method: Phone call/Mail</p> <p>TAT: 3-10 business days.</p> <p>Test Referral: Cultures presumptively identified as <i>Corynebacterium diphtheriae</i> or suspected, will be sent to the CDC for confirmation. If clinical symptoms are indicative of diphtheria infection, a specimen should be submitted to the CDC for PCR studies with approval from the CDC/ISDH.</p>